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C O N F I D E N T I A L AIT TAIPEI 000408

STATE FOR EAP/TC
STATE PASS USTR FOR STRATFORD AND ALTBACH, TREASURY FOR
OASIA/WINSHIP AND PISA, NSC FOR LOI, COMMERCE FOR
4431/ITA/MAC/AP/OPB/TAIWAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2019
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#) [SN](#)
SUBJECT: TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE TO RESUME HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC
TALKS

Classified By: Economic Chief Hanscom Smith for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) According to a contact at the Singapore representative office, Taiwan and Singapore are poised to resume high-level economic talks after a six-year hiatus. Our Singaporean contact noted that Singapore suspended the senior bilateral economic dialogue after what it characterized as excessive politicization of the talks by the administration of then-President Chen Shui-bian. In the second half of April, however, Minister of Economic Affairs Yiin Chi-ming will resume the dialogue during a one-day visit to Singapore. In addition to meeting with ministerial-level Singaporean counterparts, Yiin is slated to visit a biotechnology park.

12. (C) Our Singaporean representative office contact confided that Singapore is having a difficult time finding bilateral agenda items to fill Minister Yiin's three hours of meetings with official counterparts. He noted that although Taiwan is interested in a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) and other concrete signs of an expanded economic relationship, Singapore is waiting for additional progress on enhancing cross-Strait economic ties before determining how it will respond to Taiwan's overtures.

YOUNG